

FREE

february | 06

newsmagazine

Progressive Life West Coast

...ers what

518

Volume 28 | issue 15 mg

COLT Men Exclusives
Gage Weston and Luke Garrett
Courtesy COLTstudio.com

LOVE
RELATIONSHIPS

Bulges Butts & Beads

\$1,000 In Cash Prizes

Wednesday @ Bojangles

Cash Prizes

For Best Mardi Gras Costume

Traditional Mardi Gras

Most Risque

Bear It All With Beads!

Bojangles at Club21

(21st street between K & L)



Mardi Gras

A Week Of Celebration @ FACES
February 22nd-28th

06

Thursday

Amateur Strip Night

Mardi Gras Theme

Drink Specials

Cash Prizes

Friday/Saturday

Show Bulges & Butts

For Beads

Cash Prizes For Most

Beads Collected

Sunday

Free Cajun Chicken BBQ

Downtown Divas @ 8PM

Tea Dance

Prize For Most Beads

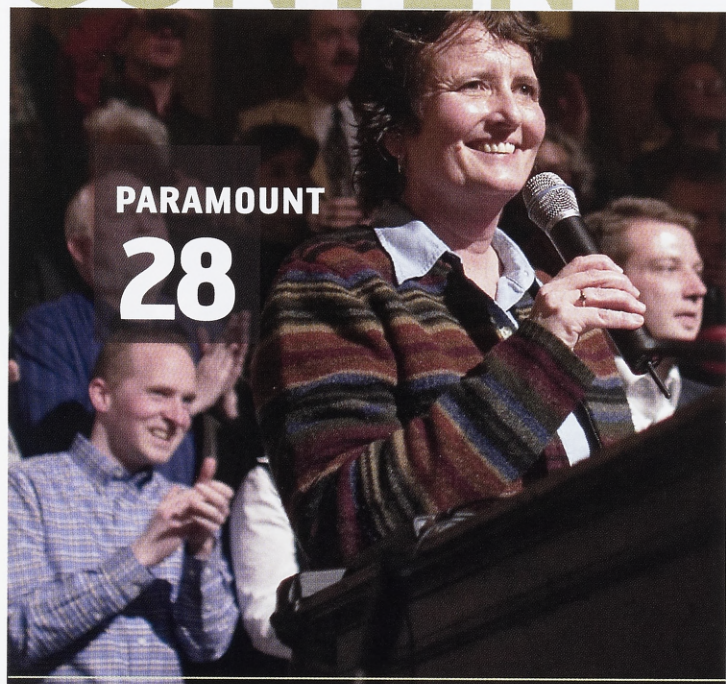
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DISPATCH

FROM THE EDITOR

➤ FEBRUARY

FINDING MEANING

The Month of February has become synonymous for two things—both of which in a perfect world would have no need to be singled out or made a point of being recognized for their difference.

The first is Black History Month. Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.” We owe this celebration to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. However, February is rich with Black history. Feb. 23, 1868: W. E. B. DuBois, co-founder of the NAACP, was born; Feb 3, 1870: The 15th Amendment gave blacks the right to vote; Feb. 25, 1870: The first black U.S. senator, Hiram R. Revels took his oath of office; Feb. 12, 1909: The NAACP was founded in NYC; Feb. 1, 1960: Greensboro, N.C. college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth’s lunch counter; Feb. 21, 1965: Malcolm X was shot to death. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

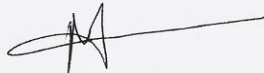
While in the present state of America, it is important to designate a time to honor and reflect on the African-American culture and the integral role it has played in the foundation of our society—it cannot begin to represent the enormous contributions Black people have made to the world. This February is a particularly sad time as in the past month we have experienced the loss of two civil rights legends: Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King. Both of these women were advocates for the GLBT community as well. They understood that our community was one based on not only the struggle for civil rights, but the need to freely be with—and marry—the person we love.

Which brings us to the second thing February is most known for: Valentine’s Day. Again in a perfect world, we would recognize and honor the love we have with our partners, our friends and family every day. But for those of us who are constantly on the go, or who fall into a comfortable complacency we all hope to one day have with our loved ones, we have set aside one day a year to remind us of how important those closest to us are.

Some rebel calling it a “greeting card” holiday and even go so far as to hold anti-Valentine’s Day parties. Others add sparks to their relationship by purposing, buying tokens of affection and sometimes erotic and exotic gifts. There are others, still, who prefer to simply settle in for a night of self-love with a COLT video—and we’ve got the perfect one for you this year, just turn to our center spread.

Whether Black History Month or Valentine’s Day, it’s important that we recognize the significance, but don’t get lost in the commercialism—or tokenism—of the time, and remember to focus on the real meaning of these events this February.

Matthew Burlingame




MGW

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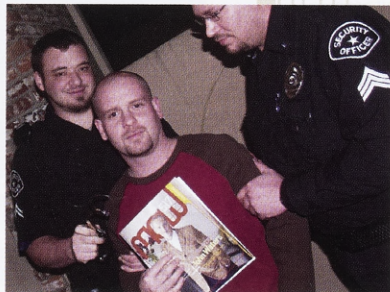
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RESPONSE

PREVIOUS ISSUE



DEAR EDITOR

I would like to thank everyone who helped organize and implement the MGW/Depot BBQ fundraiser on Sunday Jan. 29, benefiting Capital City AIDS Fund. Special kudos to TJ and Marjorie Bruce, Tim Shaw, Michael Kennedy, Taylor Facha, Robb Layne, and barback Matt from The Depot as well as Peter James, Rich Jones, Matt Burlingame, Mark Hebert and of course Jeff Davis from MGW. Most of all, I want to thank all the patrons who joined us for some great food and a lot of fun while raising funds for charity.

As many of you probably know, I recently made the difficult decision to leave my position at FACES Inc and relocate to Southern California. As is par for the course in our community, many rumors have flown about. To put it all to rest—I made this decision myself, implemented it in late January and continue to work remotely with FACES and MGW on special projects and events. I left to pursue opportunities in Southern California, to be with my family in a time of need, and to improve my own health and well-being. I worked for over 12 years with Terry Sidie and FACES and I am extremely grateful for all that they have done for me during this time.

I want to take a brief second to acknowledge a few good souls with whom I have had the pleasure of working and whom I consider good friends. Terry Sidie, often maligned and misunderstood, is too often the convenient target for

rumor and innuendo. WRONG. This good man gives more to Sacramento and the community any other person than I have ever known. Jeffery Davis of MGW is one of the most honorable people I have ever known and deserves every ounce of support this community can give to someone with his charitable spirit and unimpeachable ethical standards. Thanks to Marghe Covino, Paul Curtis and Ray Allen, Ted Ross, Bill Snyder, Jerry Sloan, CJ Van Dyke, Jonathan Cameron, Gary Vickers, Paul and Betty Crouch and special wishes to Scott Roper. All of you are special people, bright stars in the community. Don't ever stop doing what you do. You are all loved.

I will return Sunday Feb. 26 for another Depot BBQ Fundraiser at 5pm—this time the donation will benefit CGNIE. This will continue once a month with a different beneficiary, with MGW and The Depot as co-sponsors. FUNdraising can and should be FUN. Besides, it's a steak dinner for five bucks!

MIKE JOHNSTON
Chef-in-chief,
Monthly Depot Fundraisers

To those of you who do not know me, my name is Shelli LaMadrid. I am writing to request back up help in the Search of Missing Person Kathryn LaMadrid. Kathy has been missing now for over a year from Fort Bragg, CA. We do know that was a victim of foul play and feel a hate crime was committed against her because she was openly gay.

I have been we will be receiving closure with this soon. We are requesting

assistance for more law enforcement help, detectives, search and rescue with cadaver dogs from Mendocino County, Marin County, Petaluma and the Bay Area, and anyone who wishes to help us search.

We have a detective working on the case and Pam Coronado is assisting. I need more assistance getting information from one individual that holds some of the answers to resolving this matter. We want her found and in order to assure that happening I am putting this message out there knowing that the right people that can help us will respond immediately.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer please contact me directly at 916-879-3505 or email me tahoe_girl@netzero.net. I want to thank this community from the bottom of my heart and soul and Kathy's family as well. I can tell you all with tears in my eyes how proud I am of the Sacramento GLBT community for you all having my back and standing beside me in this time of sadness. You all have played a huge role in her being found and the closure that is coming soon.

Donations are still needed and being accepted until Kathy is found and can be made payable to: The Kathryn LaMadrid Fund, Placer Sierra bank, Roseville Sq. banking center, 110 Harding Blvd., Roseville, CA 95678, 916-783-7134 Acct. Manager Angela Schubot, Thank you again. Peace be with us all.

Sincerely,
SHELLI LAMADRID

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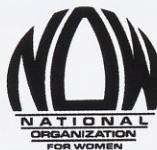
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Iowa

GAY CHAT KILLER SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS

After allegedly killing a man he met in a gay chat room, 24-year-old Jon McGee has been sentenced to 35 years in prison. McGee did not deny killing the 52-year-old traveling businessman. McGee said he looked down at his hand and saw the knife but that he did not remember stabbing the man. He then called police when he realized what had happened. McGee had a history of homicidal thoughts and went into the hospital to seek treatment. He then allegedly stopped taking medication. The men met in a Gay.com chat room and arranged to meet in a hotel room.

Maryland

GOP MAKING NEW ANTI GAY MARRIAGE BID

A short time after Republicans were unsuccessful in getting approval for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, a second attempt is already in progress. The GOP is relying on support from enough Democrats to get the measure through. Unlike the original proposal, this attempt doesn't attempt to ban civil unions. The party feels that was what led to the defeat of the first measure. The bill will be submitted to the House Judiciary Committee, which denied the first measure attempt. Republicans are pushing to get a proposed amendment to voters before a same-sex marriage ruling is made by the state Supreme Court.

Jerusalem

RELIGIOUS EXTREMIST GETS 12 YEARS FOR STABBINGS

Ultra-Orthodox religious fanatic Yishai Schlissel was been sentenced to 12 years in prison for the attempted murder of three people at Jerusalem's gay pride parade. Schlissel was found guilty of attempted murder and injury. Schlissel told police that he was on a mission from God when he lunged at three marchers in the parade and stabbed them. He was part of a large demonstration by Orthodox Jews opposed to the parade. Over one thousand protestors lined the parade route throwing bottles of urine and bags of feces at marchers. More than a dozen protestors were arrested. Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski had attempted to ban the parade but Jerusalem Open House, which organized the Pride parade, received a court order not to interfere with the annual march.

Canada

ANTI-GAY LEADER SWORN IN AS PRIME MINISTER

Tory Party leader Stephen Harper was sworn in as Canada's 22nd prime minister after pledging his party would reopen the issue of same-sex marriage. While he promises to not void those same-sex marriages which have already taken place, newer gay and lesbian couples would be allowed only civil unions. Harper also named his cabinet appointees including anti-gay advocate Vic Toews as Minister

of Justice. Same-sex marriage became legal throughout Canada last year after courts in the majority of provinces struck down previous bans on gay unions.

Connecticut

CATHOLIC HOSPITAL REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE GAY PARTNER

St. Mary's Hospital has been accused of refusing to extend health insurance to a civil-union partner. Dr. Alan J. Couture, an physician at the hospital for over eight years, filed a complaint at the state Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. He accused the hospital of discrimination against sexual orientation and marital status. His partner Robert McDonald learned he was not covered when he tried to schedule an appointment with the couple's primary care physician. St. Mary's Robert Ritz, the hospital's president defended that as a Catholic institution it abides by the "ethical and religious directives of the church." Civil unions became state law in 2005 requiring health insurance plans regulated by the state to provide benefits to civil partners. Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Connecticut, which provides health care coverage to St. Mary's employees, extends benefits to civil partners. But the hospital's insurance is self-funded, keeping it outside the jurisdiction of the state's Insurance Department, state officials said. Self-funded insurance plans do not have the same type of state oversight or regulation as other plans.

India

NEW CHALLENGE TO INDIAN SODOMY LAWS

India's Supreme Court ordered a new trial in a challenge to the country's sodomy laws. Last year the Delhi High Court upheld the sodomy law saying gay relationships constituted an "unnatural offence" and that Indian society was not ready for it. A Gay and Lesbian Rights Foundation appealed the ruling and the case was sent back to the lower court for reconsideration. The Delhi court had not bothered to hear arguments before ruling. Gays have been battling Indian sodomy laws for years with no success. The law dates back to the British Occupation and requires anyone convicted to be sentenced to prison with hard labor for up to a decade.

Florida

LESBIAN FILES AGAINST ANTI-GAY DOCTOR

Jamie Beiler mentioned to her doctor during a checkup that she was a lesbian. At the end of her appointment she was allegedly handed a packet of anti-gay propaganda referring to homosexuality as "sinful" and advising lesbians and gay men to change their sexual orientation. She has filed complaints with the Florida Department of Health and CIGNA Healthcare. The complaints allege that during the visit, the doctor and his assistant falsely presented their personal beliefs as medical information and provided unwanted treatment.

THE Jack MapleTEAM...



WINNERS & LOSERS

by Boyce Hinman

CHIEF LOBBYIST LAMBDA LETTERS PROJECT

Boyce Hinman may be contacted at
LambdaLP@aol.com or (916) 728-1261.

January 2006 was the month of the two-year bills. Bills introduced in the legislature last year, which did not make it out of their house of origin last year, became two-year bills. Two-year bills had one more chance in January of this year. If the bills got out of their house of origin by Jan. 31, 2006 they could remain alive to try to get approval by the full legislature this year; those bills not making it out of their house of origin by Jan. 31 died.

Three two-year bills of importance to the LGBTI community made the deadline and one did not. The three that did are all sponsored by Equality California. Here is a review of those bills.

AB 606 requires public schools to establish and publicize non-discrimination and anti-harassment policies that prohibit discrimination and harassment against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students. It also requires the State Board of

education to display, on its web page, information about training, curricula, and other resources that address bias-related discrimination and harassment.

AB 1160 Addresses the problem of criminal defendants using "gender panic" or "sexual orientation panic" as a way of persuading juries to give lesser sentences to people who have attacked LGBTI people. The bill says, it is against public policy for a defendant to be acquitted of a charged offense or convicted of a lesser offense based upon an appeal to the societal bias that may be possessed by members of a jury.

AB 1207 adds language to an existing pledge that candidates for public office may voluntarily sign. The pledge generally says the candidate will not engage in certain types of campaigning during the campaign. AB 606 adds language to the pledge saying the candidate will not engage in campaign practices that

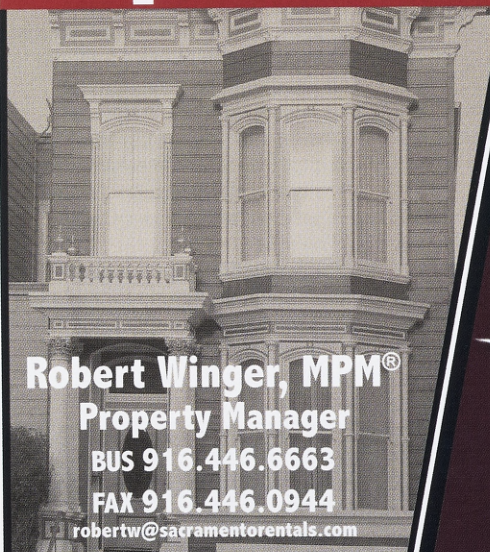
appeal to negative prejudice based on sexual orientation or gender identity. In other words he or she will not engage in gay or transgender bashing to win the election.

Assemblymember Jones, from Sacramento, voted for all of these bills. They now go to the Senate.

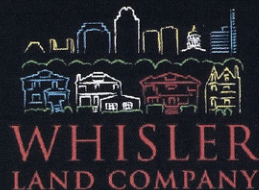
Sadly, another bill, **AB 1501**, did not make it out of the Assembly by the deadline. This bill would have authorized several San Francisco Bay Area counties to establish coordinated programs to help young people caught up in prostitution to build better lives for themselves. The bill failed even to get a vote in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

Boyce Hinman works with The Lambda Letters Project in Sacramento. You can visit the LLP website at: lambdaletters.org.

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MASTER PIECE of BDSM

by Julia Day

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHANNA CARSON

MEET DADDY SAGE EROTIC NOVELIST & FIRST FEMALE FULL MEMBER OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY LEATHERMEN



Sitting across from me, sipping tea, is a self-described "radical, butch, vegetarian, romantic, dyke, Daddy, hippie, pacifist, switch", (is there an acronym for that yet?!) who likes to express all the different pieces of herself. You understand my challenge in capturing all that in a singular profile. So, I'll give you what I know you want, dear reader, and cut straight to the kink.

Sage is the author of a series of erotic lesbian BDSM novels (a catch-phrase for all things kinky: Bondage/Discipline, Dominance/Submission, SadoMasochism) about a "leather dyke and her clan". Like their author, these books are difficult to summarize. Too often, you have to be quite the masochist just to suffer through the bad writing and stereotypical characters of average BDSM erotica. Filling a long-empty void, Sage's books offer well-written, realistic depictions of the BDSM world, with intelligent, three-dimensional characters and – get this – plot development. This is not to imply that this series isn't exploding (bursting, dripping, fill in whatever sexually-charged metaphor works for you) with steamy BDSM sex. Sage's books vacillate seamlessly between touching love story, and touch-yourself hot erotica. If you're into BDSM, or BDSM-curious, this book is a page turner (provided

you're careful not to get said pages sticky, you dirty little thing!). Even if you could do without whips and chains, the books explore themes central to all humans: the painful struggles and humbling growth of loving someone, and the

challenges of accepting the various, often contradictory parts of ourselves.

Sage started out writing short BDSM fantasies. As she has been able to connect with real people who share her desires, her stories have grown to reflect real life. Sage likens exploring BDSM to coming out as queer. "You go through the same head trips. For years I thought I was crazy, until a friend sat me down and explained it and I realized that this was just another way of expressing my sexuality and my personality."

A central aspect of her work is confronting prejudices and narrow definitions, both within and outside the leather community, like issues of rigid butch-femme roles and gender identity. According to Sage, one of the most misunderstood aspects of BDSM life is that it mirrors abusive relationships. "SM has nothing to do with abuse. The line of abuse is consensuality."

She also seeks to humanize people who are into BDSM. "I think most people, queer or straight, play on the edges and would never call it BDSM. I don't care how minimal it is, if you're spanking someone in bed, that's SM. This is really a very natural thing. The vast majority of people I've met in BDSM are caring people. When AIDS hit, the leather community raised more money than any other single group. There is a great deal of good done by us. We're not scary people. We're just regular folks – who happen to have a very interesting time in bed!"

Sage's books "Harley" and "Jesse" can be found on her website <http://hometown.aol.com/SageMastr/Harley.html>

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On Jan 11 Sacramento's favorite 18+ dance club, Bojangles turned 30 years old. Erik E. a.k.a. Mr. Bojangles threw a huge party for both the club and him—it was his 20th! The over-300 attendees had a great time as Erik and club owner Terry Sidie presided over the event.

18+ BO'S TURNS 30+



On Jan. 25 The Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (SIGLFF) handed out some serious fundage to two local groups: True Colors Women's Chorus and Golden Rule Services. Both organizations were presented with their awards at a gathering at the Lavender Library. (Pictured: SIGLFF and True Colors; Photo by Rich Jones)

SIGLFF GIVES



On Jan. 28 the Mr. Bolt Leather 2006 Contest, organized by John Yant and hosted by Boy David Shorey raised \$1100 for Breaking Barriers and the Mr. Bolt Leather Travel Fund. Judges Kenny Y., Dale Z., Dyke Daddy Sage, Daddy Mike voted Jeff Rhynes the winner of the Mr. Bolt Leather 2006 title with first runner-up being Dave Weller and second runner-up going to Mischa Kitain. Congratulations! (Pictured: Jeff Rhynes & David Shorey; Photo by John Yant)

BOLT BREAKS BARRIERS



GAY GAMES are COMING

BY GINI MAULFAIR

Once again, the international gay community is looking forward to the Gay Games. This time around the Gay Games come with a twist; there are two organizations and two locations from which to choose. Gay Games VII Sports and Cultural Festival will be held in Chicago July 15 - 22, 2006. (gaygameschicago.org) The First World Outgames-Rendez-Vous Montreal 2006 will be held July 29-August 5, 2006 in Montreal. (montreal2006.org)

Since its inception in San Francisco in 1982, The Gay Games and Cultural Festival, presented by the Federation of Gay Games, Inc., has attracted nearly 50,000 individuals who compete in 33 sports without qualifying events and without mandatory affiliations, and in the Cultural Festival which includes bands, choruses, cheer teams, color guards and many opportunities for creative expression of art, culture, performance, prose and spectacle. The Games are built on the founding principles of "participation, inclusion, and personal best", where participants achieve success by their own measure.

As the title implies, this is the original First World Outgames, presented by the Gay and Lesbian International Sport Association, GLISA, based in Montreal. These Games are based on the principles of "participation, celebration, respect, fairness, innovation and Pride". There are no minimum athletic standards to qualify for the Outgames. The only requirement is the desire to support the ideals of the Outgames. There are 35 sporting disciplines and four cultural activities from which to choose: band/cheerleading/color guard, choral festival, country western dance, square dance.

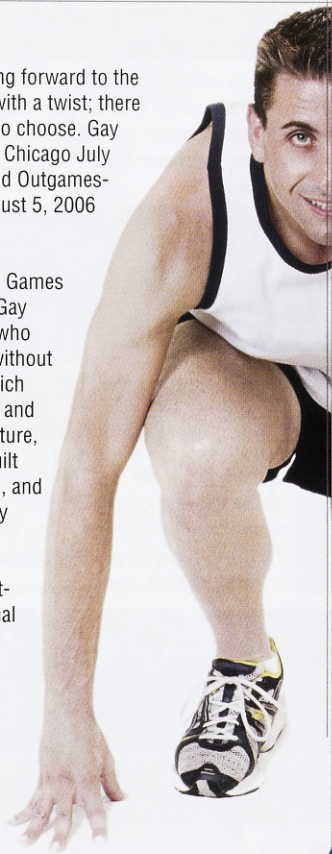
Sacramento Arts and Games Association (SAGA) was formed to promote and foster sports competition among the LGBT community, locally, nationally, and internationally. Every four years LGBT athletes gather at the Gay Games to compete in a prejudice and discrimination free atmosphere. SAGA's role locally has been to provide information about the Gay Games and to gather athletes together to form Team Sacramento, to act as a network center for those wanting to join local sports organizations, to support and

promote organizers of local sports teams, and to encourage individuals to become involved to local gay sport activities.

TEAM SACRAMENTO will represent SAGA at both games venues in 2006. As of this date, there will be teams from bowling, volleyball, basketball, and swimming attending the Gay Games. If there is any one who has registered for the Gay Games in Chicago or Montreal and who has not contacted SAGA, please do so and become part of Team Sacramento.

The organizers of the Chicago and Montreal are committed to providing the experience of a lifetime for the LGBT community that rivals the Olympic format. Opening ceremonies feature the parade of the international athletes and cultural participants, and outstanding entertainment at Chicago's Soldier's Field on July 15. Closing ceremonies will be held at Wrigley Field with the final parade of athletes and cultural participants on July 22. One week later, July 29, in Montreal, the opening ceremonies will be held in Montreal's Olympic Stadium and closing ceremonies there on Aug. 5.

For more information on SAGA please contact tommy5647@aol.com or ttmuth@sbcglobal.net or gini39@comcast.net.



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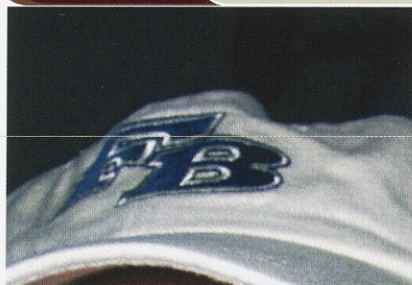
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On Jan. 29 MGW staff invaded Showtune Sunday at The Depot to host a BBQ fundraiser for the Capital City AIDS Fund (see the Evening with the Oscars ad in this issue). They raised over \$600 servin' up tri-tip beef and succulent chicken breast to a very appreciative crowd. (Pictured: Mike Johnston & Bartender Jayson; Photo by Rich Jones)

SUCCULENT CHICKEN

On Jan. 28 the Mercantile Saloon officially unveiled its new patio to Sacramento. It was a wild night of fun and frivolity! Raffles, free food, great drinks and a real down home bar fight between a drag queen and a lesbian. Remember Cardinal rule number one: never pull off a queen's wig. Check out the great new digs in person.



MERC ALERT

On Feb. 7 the cast of "I Do - I Don't", the new play by Tom Swanner, got together for a little press shoot to promote their new show. The show will be making its world debut at the Lambda Players theatre on Thurs. Feb. 16. The comedy tackles the subject of gay marriage after it is legalized. (Pictured: The Cast of I Do - I Don't; Photo by Rich Jones)



SAY "I DO" TO "...I DON'T"



On Feb. 8 The Midtown Business Association (MBA) presented local bar owner and magazine publisher Terry Sidie with an award for Businessman of the Year. The award was presented by MBA president Shawn Eldredge. (Pictures: Eldredge and Sidie; Photo by Rich Jones)

SIDE BY SIDE BY SIDIE



On Jan. 16 Headhunters' owner Terry Sidie had dinner with a few friends: San Diego Senator Kehoe, Nicole Murray-Ramirez and guest. The four dined in the restaurant that is quickly becoming the hotspot for the out and about in Lavender Heights. (Photo by Rich Jones)



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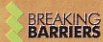
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MISS FIRECRACKER LIGHTS THINGS UP

"The Miss Firecracker Contest," Beth Henley's explosively funny play full of nutty characters and simple wisdom, opens February 24 for a two-week run (closing March 5). The production is being mounted by American River College Theatre, but will appear at the attractive new theatre at Inderkum High School. According to ARC instructor Tracy Shearer, "The ARC theatre is being renovated this year, forcing us to find alternative venues for our shows. Inderkum is one of our satellite campuses, and its theatre is extremely comfortable and well-equipped. Our audiences have been very happy with the choice!"

The story of "Miss Firecracker" revolves around Carnelle Scott (known locally as "Miss Hot Tamale") who is rehearsing furiously for the Miss Firecracker Contest, hoping that a victory will salvage her tarnished reputation. With questionable help from her cousins (the bored-but-beautiful Elain and mental patient Delmount) as well as earnest assistance from a touchingly awkward seamstress named Popeye and several other nutty characters, Carnelle perseveres. In the end, many of the characters have hope of escaping their unhappy pasts.

Directed by Tod Fortner, "The Miss Firecracker Contest" features community theatre favorite, Analise Langford-Clark, in the role of Carnelle Scott. Langford has been seen on numerous area stages, including Runaway Stage Productions, Magic Circle Theatre, and the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival. She is joined by an accomplished cast including Liesel Hanson (from Fair Oaks Theatre Festival's "The Apple Tree"), Brianne Hidden (a lead in ARC's "The Man Who Came to Dinner") and Keith Lett (also a community favorite).

All performances of ARC's "The Miss Firecracker Contest" will be held at Inderkum High School Theatre, 2500 New Market Dr., Sacramento (near the intersection of Truxel and Del Paso Blvd.). Parking is free. Specific show dates are Fri., Sat., Sun., Feb. 24, 25, 26, and Mar. 3, 4, 5, as well as Thursday, March 2. All shows begin at 7:30pm. Ticket prices are \$9 for general admission and \$7 for students, seniors, and Sarta members. Group rates are also available. Tickets may be purchased at the ARC Business Office or at the door. For more information, please call the ARC Box Office at (916) 484-8234.



As dysfunctional families go, Carnelle Scott's is a doozy in "The Miss Firecracker Contest," an American River College Theatre production being presented at Inderkum High Theatre. Beth Henley's hilarious comedy revolves around Carnelle's (Analise Langford-Clark, center with crown) hopes of starting life afresh by winning a local beauty/talent contest. Photo by John Wagner



BBQ

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WHAM! BAM

Within the first thirty seconds of speaking with Simon Napier-Bell one is struck with the sense that he is a shameless self-promoter. So then who better to manage rock stars and promote them to the heights of stardom they only dreamed of when putting their acts together?

Napier-Bell has no trouble stating that everyone in America should buy his book because it is fascinating and, well, basically the best book ever written. The book in question doesn't answer any of life's mysteries but rather is titled "I'm Coming to Take You to Lunch: A Tale of Boys, Booze and How Wham! Were Sold to China" and it tells the story of just that in a most entertaining way.

Wham!, of course, was George Michael pre "Faith" and his school mate Andrew Ridgley. "Andrew was really the look of the band," states Napier-Bell. "George was this pudgy little Greek boy with curly hair who was fascinated with Andrew in school. Andrew was the popular one and had style. George tailored his Wham! look after Andrew."

Those looking for insight on George and tales of his sexuality may be disappointed. The book gives a certain insight on George and his drive for fame from Napier-Bell's perspective but it does not delve into George's sex or love life. "George really began to understand his sexuality at the height of Wham!'s fame and it was hard for him because it was like coming out in front of the entire world. I don't go into it in the book but as for me there are plenty of pages about my love life and living with two boyfriends at the same time for a period while all this was going on. It is really quite entertaining and all."

When asked how he wound up living with two boyfriends at the same time Napier-Bell stated, "You know how it is. The new one moves in and you don't have the heart to tell the old one that it is over yet. Make sure you read the book as it is all in there."

No doubt Napier-Bell is a talented story teller and anyone with an interest in Wham!, George Michael, pop music management or doing business in Communist China will no doubt find "I'm Coming to Take You to Lunch: A Tale of Boys, Booze and How Wham! Were Sold to China" a page turner.

"George came to me and stated he wanted me to manage him and Andrew. He said he wanted Wham! to be the most popular band in the world and he wanted that to happen in two years. I told him that would mean being the most popular band in America and it can't happen in two years so I offered to make them the first ever western pop band to play a concert in Communist China and do that within two years. George agreed and within two years they were playing in China."

No easy feat but Napier-Bell appears to be as driven and relentless as he describes George Michael to be when it comes to self-promotion and celebrity drive. Napier-Bell is a fascinating conversationalist and is easy to access on his web site simonnapierbell.com where he converses with those that email with questions about the various groups he has managed over the years including Japan and The Yardbirds. He has written two previous books about his adventures managing bands and is now living in Thailand with his current boyfriend and says he plans on writing another.

Asked about managing another rock group he states that he currently has an interest in one but is not doing the day to day management. "It's tedious and boring. The other night I got a call from the day to day manager and he said they were at the studio until three in the morning and that the singer's car was towed so after the session he had to start to deal with getting the car back. That is basically what you do when you are managing a rock star."



I'M COMING TO TAKE YOU TO LUNCH

A FANTASTIC TALE OF BOYS, BOOZE, AND HOW WHAM! WERE SOLD TO CHINA

Simon Napier-Bell

"Simon Napier-Bell can take me to lunch any time he wants. He'd be the perfect companion: an interesting man who has done interesting things in very interesting times." —KURT LOREN

BY DAVID WARPNESS

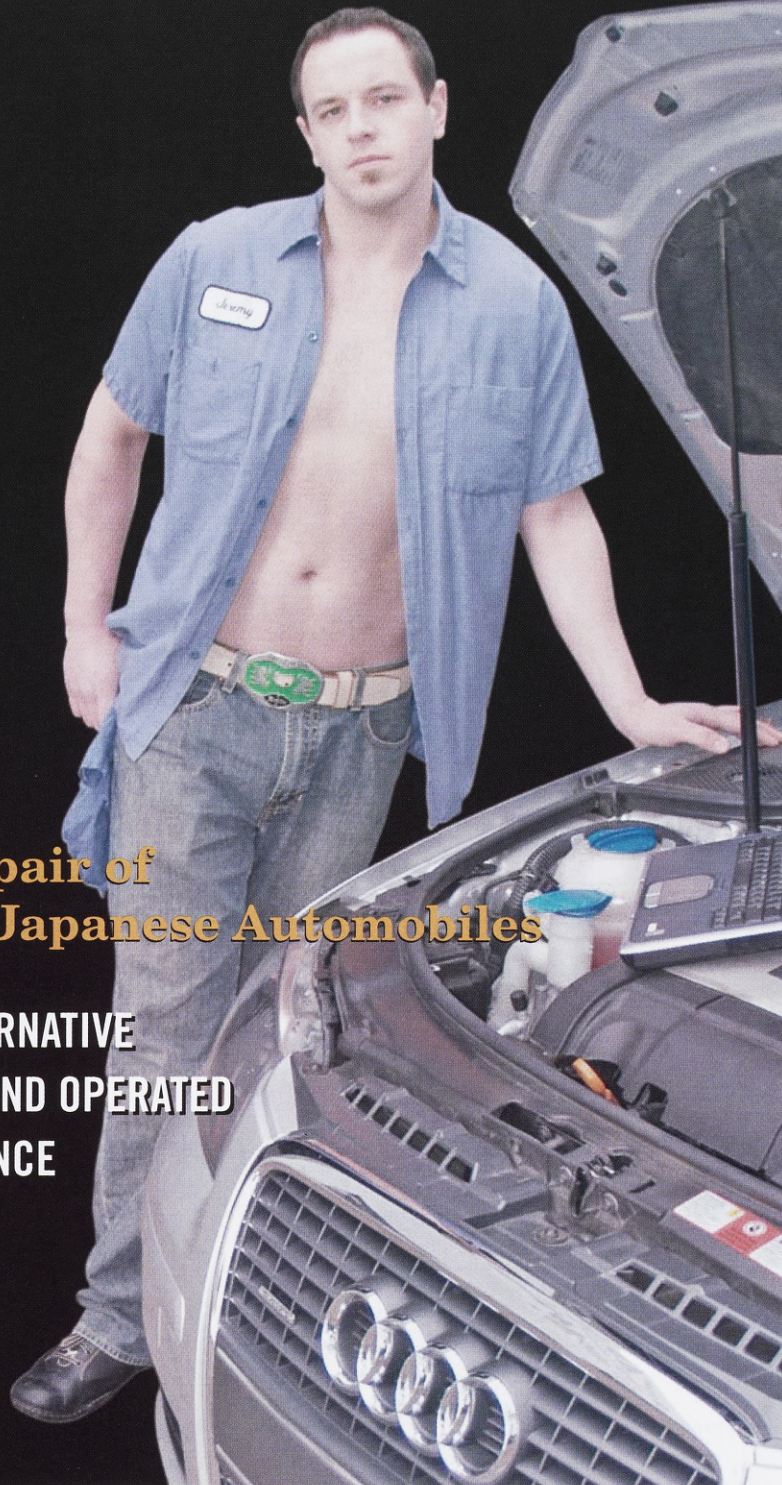
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What message would you like to send for Valentine's Day

Q&A

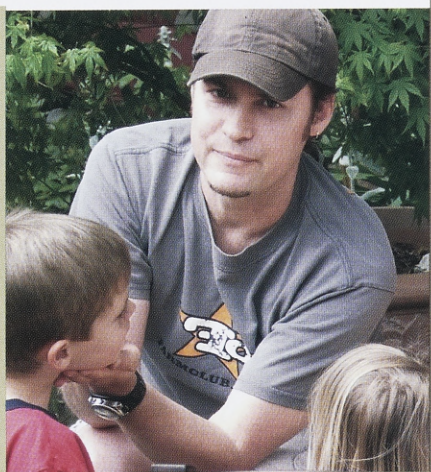
by Rich Jones

"You know who you are! I gotta love letter for you, baby!"

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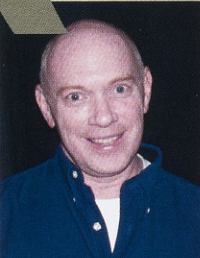
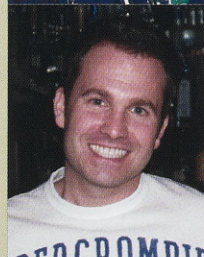
"Angie, Wynant, & Yvonne, I love you and miss you much!"



BRIAN STEWART

SACRAMENTO
REALTOR

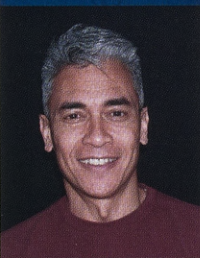
"Mary...Mary... Sandra loves you gurl"



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BROADCAST INDUSTRY

"To Juan. You are my sun, my North Star, my moon, my eternal Valentine"



JUAN RAMOS

SACRAMENTO
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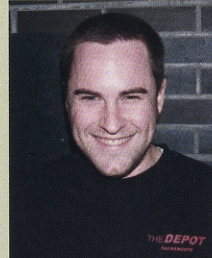
"Hi Sweetie Chris! Happy Valentine's Day to you!"



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STUDENT

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SACRAMENTO
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It's a common misconception that millionaires live the types of lives we see reflected by Donald Trump on "The Apprentice." While these men are intelligent, hard working and sophisticated—you have to be to make those millions—most of them are just regular guys who, like all of us, want to find someone to share their lives with. So why do they use this service to find that perfect man?

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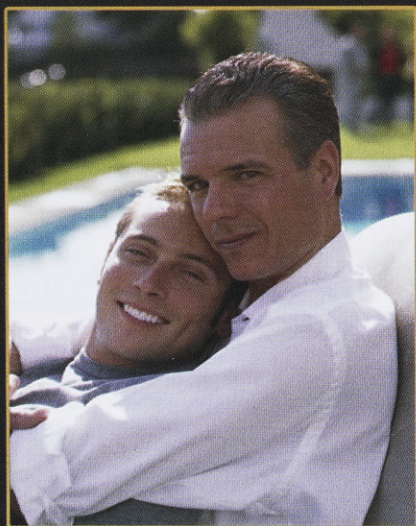
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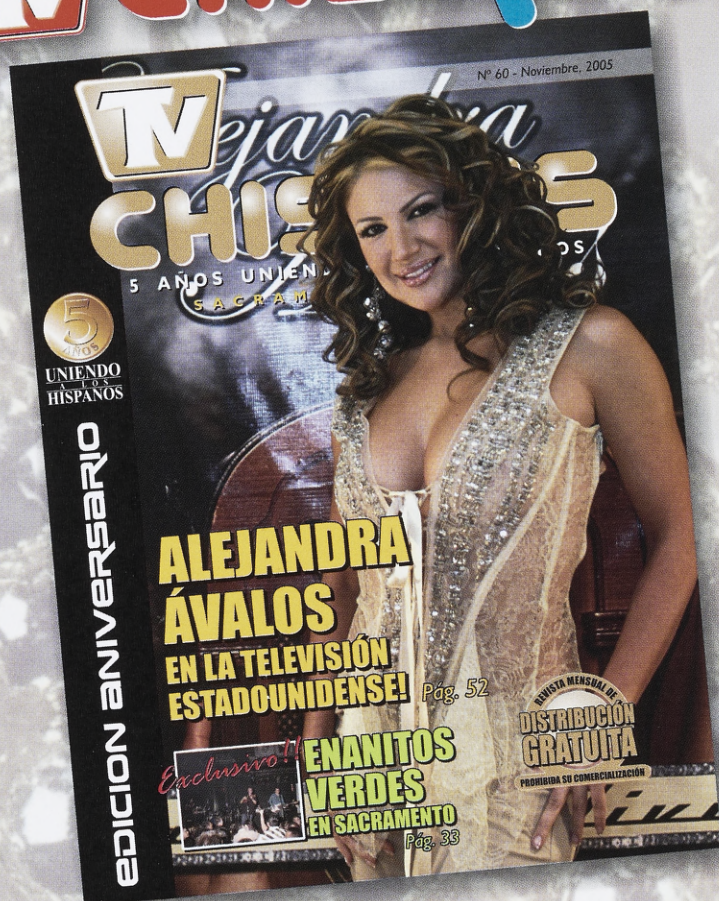
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INTERVIEW

cover story



➤ COLT STARS TALK ABOUT LOVE & RELATIONSHIPS

WHETHER IN A RELATIONSHIP, OR ON THEIR OWN, IT IS RARE FOR ANY GAY MAN TO EXPRESS A COMPLETE DISINTEREST IN ADULT FILMS. ESPECIALLY WHEN THE FILMS COME FROM STUDIOS KNOWN FOR EXCELLENT PRODUCTION QUALITY, TOP-NOTCH DIRECTION AND SIZZLING HOT MODELS. ADULT FILMS AND THEIR STARS ARE NOT ONLY A LARGE PART OF GAY CULTURE THEY ARE IN SOME WAYS OUR ROLE MODELS AND OUR IDOLS. WHO CAN BLAME A GUY FOR WORSHIPING THE BODIES OF COLT MAN EXCLUSIVES LIKE LUKE GARRETT AND GAGE WESTON? MGW GOT A CHANCE TO TALK TO THE COUPLE JUST IN TIME FOR OUR LOVE & RELATIONSHIPS ISSUE

MGW: How did the two of you first meet and when did the two of you realize the attraction went past mutual attraction to love?

We actually worked out at the same gym and didn't know it! I (**Gage**) saw him (**Luke**) working out one day and recognized him from bigmuscle.com. That night I sent a message to his profile asking if it was him I saw working out. I really didn't expect him to reply; I thought he was way out of my league. I was totally surprised when he said he would like to meet me, I was actually nervous as hell! I finally got the nerve to say hello and we ended up talking for a while at the gym. We definitely had a mutual attraction and decided to get to know each other a little better. At first it was total lust, and then I started to get some very strong feelings for him. He swept me off my feet, and I totally feel in love with him! He is the first man I've ever been in a relationship with, and hopefully the last. It will be two years in April!

MGW: How have you managed to survive the delicate and tricky path through porn as a couple?

Well at first it was pretty hard! We did a lot of talking before we actually decided to do it. As a couple we had only been sexual with each other. The hard part was getting over the jealousy and accepting the fact that we would be sexual with other men. We both look at it as work, even though it is very pleasurable work! It is work, and doesn't have the intimacy and emotional attachment that we have together.

MGW: What was your most memorable experience about filming "Man Country"?

Wow, there were so many great moments while shooting that film. It's always a great time seeing the cast and crew of COLT. We always have so much fun on set. I'd defiantly have to say the most memorable moment was actually shooting the scene. It was the first time for all three of us to do a three-way scene on film. So it will always be something we'll never forget!

MGW: What about the least memorable?

All of the memories from shooting are good. So I guess I don't really have any bad ones.

MGW: Do you consider yourselves "actors" or "performers"?

I'd say we are definitely performers, but there is some acting involved. Not like "Academy Award" acting, but there is some.

MGW: When the two of you are off the set, what do you like to do as a couple?

Well we love working out, that's for sure. I actually enjoy getting pumped up at the gym. We also like to go see movies, and work on our house. Do you socialize or do you consider yourselves "home bodies"?

We're pretty much "Home Bodies", we don't really get out much as far as going out to clubs and stuff like that. We do spend time with friends, although we don't really have that many here in Kansas City, lol! Other than that, we're pretty much on the internet most of the time on our websites doing live-cam performances for our fans.

MGW: Is either of you politically active, or hold any strong opinions about the current state of the gay marriage?

I'm (**Gage**) not that big on politics. **Luke** on the other hand gets very fired up about it. I do feel that marriage is a love thing not a gender thing! If you're in love with each other, why shouldn't you be able to be together in any way you want? I personally think its bullshit!

MGW: Do either of you find yourselves recognized in public, and what is the usual reaction?

I'm a personal trainer at a gym in Kansas City that's pretty much known for being a "gay" gym - well at least the majority of members there are gay, so I'm recognized there. Sometimes when we're traveling, we'll get recognized at airports, that's about it!

MGW: How do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

We will probably make it an "Old Fashioned" date! Dinner and a movie, then of course lots of love makin'! If **Luke's** lucky!

MGW: Who is the better kisser?

That depends on which part of the body you're talking about!! He is the best kisser I've ever had and I'm sure he will say the same, at least he better!! It's a draw.

MGW: Is there any performer—or performers—within the industry you admire and if so, what is it about them that you admire?

I (**Gage**) really admire "Jake Andrews". Not only has he worked with so many great people, he is still incredibly sexy and has been in the business for so long. Besides all that he is truly a great friend and has been sort of a mentor for me while getting started in this industry. He is a great man inside and out.

MGW: Could each of you describe the ideal romantic evening?

Well it would start off with a nice quiet dinner! Then cuddling on the couch in a candle lit living room with my sexy man. We would try to make it through a movie, before heading up to the bedroom for a little more romance!! I'm a pretty simple guy. Just waking up next to him is romantic to me. The little things mean more to me than anything else. An occasional card, or little love note will keep me smiling for a long time!

MGW: Can we all hope to see the two of you in action for several more years to come?

Well I sure hope so. I'm having a ton of fun!



SO HAPPY TOGETHER

What happens when a fun, inoffensive, romantic comedy that you really want to like has a flaw so fundamental that it brings into doubt its very premise?

In the case of Ol Parker's *Imagine Me & You*, you have to ignore it or else miss out on a pleasant comedy that's silly enough to elicit laughs yet serious enough to address issues about relationships, commitment, and destiny.

The film posits the question, What if someone else (other than your current or soon-to-be partner or spouse) is your true soul mate? The answer: You'll never know till that person shows up in your life.

Romantic comedies are awash in themes concerning almost-missed connections, second-guesses, and chance encounters (Peter Howitt's *Sliding Doors* is one notable example). The world of "what if" is an ever-intriguing one—sometimes maddeningly so. We get only one life to live; what if we're missing out?

Imagine Me & You is no different; it just tweaks the convention by introducing an element of sexual revelation: What if you're straight and that special someone is of the same sex? (The queer flipside of this was the focus Russell T. Davies' ITV series "Bob & Rose," which the Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival screened in 2003.)

by Stefan
Gruenwedel



Just how jarring this particular coming-out story is depends on your own experience, predilection, and orientation. Straights will find it unfortunate (what about the nice guy?), gays and lesbians will find it liberating (aren't they a happy couple?), and bisexuals will wonder what the fuss is all about (isn't this just what love is?).

Sexual persuasions aside, *Imagine Me & You* imagines a world where one is free to choose one's mate with little repercussion, where one's ultimate happiness is truly more important than societal, parental, or even one's own expectations.

Rachel (Piper Perabo doing a passable British accent) is a comfortable, middle-class London professional who will

soon marry her longtime boyfriend. Hector or "Heck" (Matthew Goode looking as though he just walked off the set of *Match Point*, which Woody Allen filmed in town just a couple months earlier) is Rachel's best friend and caring boyfriend. They've been together so long that their friends joke about it.

I'm not giving anything away when I say that, as she walks down the aisle, Rachel glimpses a woman she's never seen before. It's Luce (Lena Headey), the wedding florist. Rachel is intrigued by this engaging woman, and later smitten when she runs into her at the reception. As she struggles to understand what it all means, Rachel must weigh the pros and cons of living a life she thought she knew or a life she knows nothing about. Meanwhile, poor Heck wonders why his wife has become emotionally distant; he must be doing something wrong.

This is a good foundation for a comedy about relationships and understanding the opposite sex. Just don't keep your hopes up for too long; this film is pure fantasy. What bride never meets her florist before the wedding day? (Especially a fancy wedding like this one.) Equally unlikely is the fact that this unknown woman's flower shop is in the same neighborhood where Rachel and Heck live.

A few lines of dialog in just the right spots could have answered these pertinent questions. Instead, the story takes so many shortcuts that it undermines its own credibility.

Imagine Me & You relies on trite plot devices to carry things along. Parker's script could have been much stronger if he had depended less on clichés and more on the clever dialog he uses elsewhere.

For example, the well-worn, cynical relationship between Rachel's parents (Celia Imrie and Anthony Head) nicely balances their daughter's impetuosity. Yet it is her ultimate, heartfelt decision that rekindles whatever spark remains between them. It seems impossible not to root for the young, happy couple in the end.

Imagine Me & You opened February 10 in Sacramento at the Crest Theatre. Info: imaginemeandyou.com.

"What if someone else is your true soul mate? The answer: You'll never know till that person shows up in your life."

Imagine Me & You

Starring Piper Perabo, Lena Headey, Matthew Goode. Written and directed by Ol Parker.
(RATED R, 94 MIN.)



AIDS LIFECYCLE

the benefit with benefits



SEATTLE'S AIDS LIFECYCLE FUNDRAISER

by James Lowry

Sexual educator and author Midori was "tired of watching my friends die of the disease," she says about HIV and the AIDS virus. That fatigue led to her fundraising efforts with AIDS LifeCycle, the San Francisco to Los Angeles cycling event, to increase AIDS awareness and activism. Instead of slipping into a pair of biking shorts, Midori encourages slipping out of everything at the women only burlesque and sex party fundraiser, Bang 4 the Buck.

On Saturday, February 19, the event sees its second year at Seattle's Sex Positive Community Center, the Wet Spot. Doors open at 7pm, and local burlesque diva Miss Indigo Blue welcomes femmes and butches of all ages to participate in a free burlesque lesson.

The 8 o'clock hour kicks off a sliding scale entrance to the amateur Strip-O-Rama. Frisky and creative women of all ages sign up for a friendly competition scored by beneficial tips.

As the tease closes, interests have been aroused and inhibitions have been lost, Midori takes the stage to ease any remaining timidity. "People should not be afraid of sex," says Midori. The sex party that ensues allows women a comfortable forum for sexual expression and, hopefully, release.

"Women who aren't sure of these events should feel safe in a good space," says Lydia McLane, co-coordinator of the fundraiser. The professional dominatrix and fetish model courted her current partner at last year's Bang. "There are no rules, only personal rules. Be as bad as possible," says McLane.

The all volunteer run benefit is set up with 100% of the proceeds going to AIDS LifeCycle. The idea has generated over \$3,000 last year in conjunction with the San Francisco Bang that takes place every November. The last Seattle Bang contributed over \$1,600 of that figure. With increased awareness of the function and the implementation of an erotic fine art and photography silent auction, the Seattle event hopes to double last year's numbers.

So girls, do unto others... A little generosity can get you along way at Seattle's Bang 4 the Buck. Go ahead. Stretch your dollar.

The Wet Spot is located at 1630 15th Ave. W, Building E, Seattle WA. For more information, please visit www.wetspot.org.

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PHOTOS BY BRIAN BUCK

J

anuary 23rd on the steps of the Capitol in Olympia, Washington proved to be instrumental in the success of HB 2661, among other legislative efforts by constituents. Different groups from various sectors as Seattle Commission for Sexual Minorities, Equal Rights Washington and Religious Coalition for Equality, rallied and greeted leaders as Governor Christine Gregoire, State Representative Edward Murray and State Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown.



Asian Fabulous

A NIGHT UNLIKE ANY OTHER

BY PAOLO PONTEMAYOR
PHOTOS BY BRIAN BUCK

On January 28, the eve of Lunar New Year, many assembled in the Broadway Performance Hall to enjoy a night unlike any other. It was an evening filled with music, dance, song, and a traditional Lion Dance. For its 2006 offering, API International put on the third API International drag pageant. Aptly titled, A & F: Asian & Fabulous. Started in 2001, API International is an organization that exists to promote and empower LGBT Asian and Pacific Islander individuals, by showcasing the diverse and unique cultures of the Asian, South Asian and Pacific Islander communities. This year the organization, composed of volunteers, accomplished its goals of putting together a larger show in order to raise funds for a scholarship and is one step to becoming a non-profit. Already billed as the largest gathering of queer API's in the Northwest, A & F, was an event to remember.

According to the organization's founders Teriyaki Temple, Shaka Kwan, and JJ Temple-Ho, "We hope this show will not only bring together the API GLBTQ community, but bridge the gap that exists between other communities." Selling out even before the event started, the show was a huge success as it marked the first time that community organizations—API and LGBT oriented came together. Sponsored by Lifelong AIDS Alliance's Mpowerment Program, the lobby was filled with community groups that catered to the API GLBTQ population.

The show had five contestants competing to be crowned the next API International Mr. And Miss. With four categories to compete in, this year's participants had to represent their heritage with a national costume, give their all in a talent portion, strut their stuff in a swimwear segment, and look glamorous in evening wear. All of this, even before the all-important question and answer portion in front of a judging panel made of API community leaders. The five contenders fielded questions that had them address racism within the gay community, social justice, and overall knowledge of important issues affecting GLBTQ's.

In between these, were song and dance numbers by the talented Aleksa Manila, Miss Gay Seattle XL; Gia Manila, Miss Gay Seattle XLII; Nina Manila Maxwell, Miss Gay Seattle XLI; as well as the organization's founders Teriyaki Temple and Shaka Kwan. Taking part in their last appearances as API International Mr and Miss II, were Kalika Manila Fuuiava and JT Temple, who completed their tenures with performances.

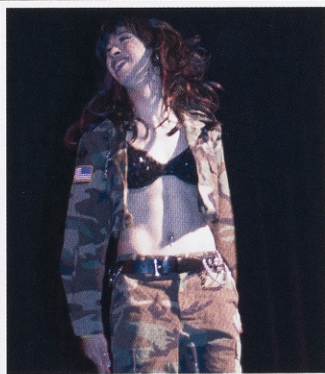
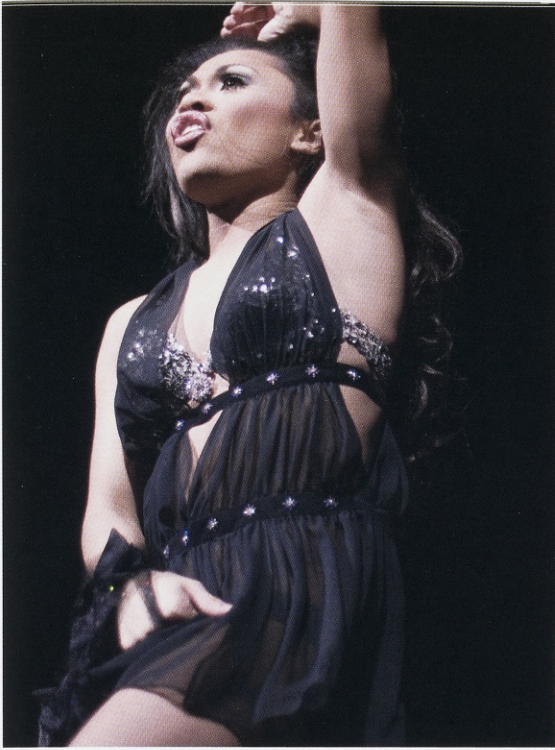
Leaving Silence, an award-winning exhibit, was featured in the foyer. Created in 1996, it was fitting for it to be unveiled once more as a ten-year tribute. It features profiles of leaders who paved the way for API GLBTQ's, and was loaned for the evening from the Asian Counseling and Referral Services organization, one of the show's community sponsors.

By the end of the evening, the audience was treated to a show of dazzling spectacles that showcased the diverse and unique traditions of Asia and the Pacific. After a technical difficulty in tabulating scores it was Marisa Rachinee and Melvin Foifua who were crowned as the new representatives of API International. Regina King was named first runner up. As winners of the competition they will represent API International in the Imperial Court of Seattle, as well as within the GLBTQ community's many large events.

A & F, was a success not only in show but also socially as it allowed an invisible segment of the LGBT population—queer Asians, South Asians, and Pacific Islanders a space to express and celebrate their unique culture in a respectful and safe format free from exploitation. "It allowed us," Shaka Kwan said, "to combat stereotypes [of APIs] that we are not quiet, submissive, and small... people you think who pick up after you."

Already in its planning stages, the fourth API International show will prove to be huge! If you are interested in participating please email Teriyaki Temple at teriyakitemple@aol.com. Also if you would like to be informed of what is happening in the API GLBTQ community, join the list serve at nwqapi@yahoo.com.

健康



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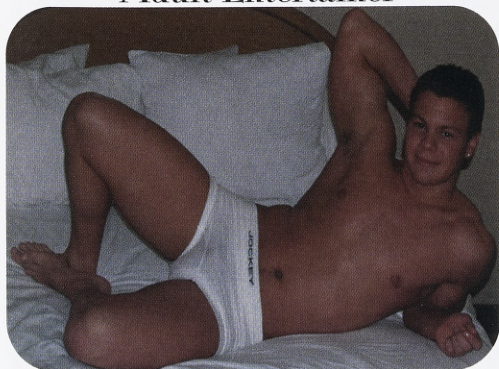
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Valentines

Chocolates, Flowers and a Romantic Restaurant!



By Randy Hartley

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of Saint Valentine. Did you ever wonder who Saint Valentine was and why we celebrate his day?

The history of Valentine's Day and its patron saint contains evidence of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition dating back to the year 270 A.D.

Today, the Roman Catholic Church

recognizes about three different saints named Valentine, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome.

The Roman Emperor Claudius II was having problems recruiting men to serve in his armies. Disturbed over the fact that his men wanted to stay home with their wives and families, he then decided that single men made better soldiers and outlawed marriage for young single men, his harvest of potential soldiers.

Couples who were in love searched for someone who would help them get married, even in secret and against the decree of Claudius. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for these desperate young lovers. When the emperor found out, he ordered Valentine's execution on February 14, the day of the Roman festival of love.

According to one legend, Valentine's jailer had a daughter named Augustine who visited him during his confinement. She was very kind to him during his

imprisonment and before his death, it is said that he wrote Augustine a grateful thank you note, which he signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. It is no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

With Valentine's note the custom of sending Valentines had begun. England in the 1400's and in 1847 Esther A. Howland of Worcester, Massachusetts became one of the first manufacturers of Valentine cards with hearts and lace.

Now he is remembered as Saint Valentine, the patron saint of lovers, who died because he believed in love.

Often times we see Cupid with a bow and arrow on Valentine cards. The chubby cherub dates way back to the myths of ancient Greece. Then he was known as Eros the son of Aphrodite, the goddess of love. Later adopted by the Romans, like much of the Greek culture, they called the goddess of love Venus and her son Cupid a Latin word meaning desire.

As a messenger of his mother, the goddess of love, Cupid would shoot his arrows, tipped with gold. Those struck

by the golden tipped arrows would fall in love.

Besides Valentine cards, Flowers and Chocolate candies are also given to people who are friends, family, lovers and those who are courting.

Did you know that there is a language in sending different flowers? According to old traditions, sending different kinds of flowers sends a secret message to the one you love. These are a few of the secret messages:

Red roses mean, "I love you."
Yellow roses mean, "I love you, but I don't know if you love me."
White roses mean, "Our love is pure."
Orange blossoms represent everlasting love.

Now, all that is left is a decision on a Valentines card, Chocolates and/or flowers or go all the way and include a romantic restaurant for dinner (The Waterboy comes to mind) for that special someone in your life. Remember to make dinner reservations early (like now)!

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

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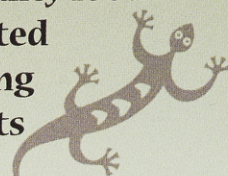
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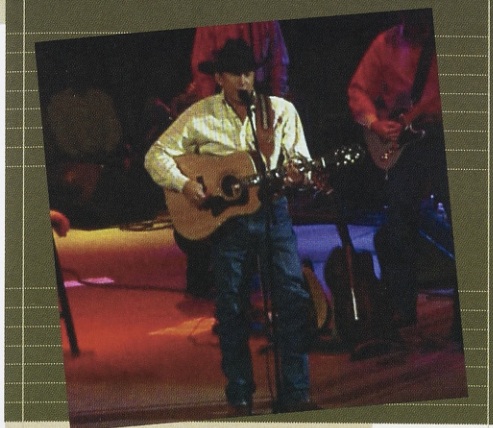
**Duncan
Sheik**

White Limousine

Zoe Records



White Limousine, Duncan Sheik's new release on Zoë/Rounder, is his most realized work yet—a set of catchy, thoughtful compositions that are pro-love and anti-war, both perfectly simple and breathtakingly vast. Though he is known to many for his gold records, Grammy nomination and year-long ride on the pop charts with “Barely Breathing,” White Limousine is an album that fuses the epic balladry and tuneful love songs for which Sheik is known with visceral comments on war, media and consumer culture. duncansheik.com



GEORGE STRAIT HITS ARCO ARENA

It was like a "Brokeback Mountain" fantasy come true when country music icon George Strait played to a capacity crowd at Arco Arena Feb. 2. Cowboys in Wranglers were everywhere in the friendly and enthusiastic crowd.

If anyone thinks that country is not cool this was one concert that would have proved them wrong. Strait performed with two opening acts, Miranda Lambert and Tracy Lawrence.

Lambert opened the show with a short set promoting her new CD release, "Kerosene" which was certified Gold just before the end of 2005. Lambert

If anyone thinks that country music is not cool this was one concert that would have proved them wrong.

is a beautiful young woman with an excellent voice but she had some trouble working a crowd the size at Arco that night. Still she put her all into it and was well received by the crowd who was clearly there to see George Strait.

Lawrence, a more seasoned performer than Lambert, really got things going as he took the stage with his energetic moves. Lawrence came off as a friendly, funny guy who obviously loves working with the audience to have a good time and every time he mentioned Strait the crowd went wild.

When Strait finally took the stage the arena energy went up and stayed up for his nearly two hour set. Strait made the job of playing to over 18,000 people look easy as he is a consummate professional. With his greatest hits CD having spent 12 years on the Billboard Country Chart his music is well known to the fans. Everyone got their money's worth.

After an evening at a George Strait concert it is apparent that country music is alive and kicking here in River City.

—DAVID WARPNESS
(PICTURES BY DAVID WARPNESS)



Greta Gaines

CAN'T KILL THE FLAVOR

Giant Records

"Can't Kill the Flavor," is the third effort from singer/songwriter, television personality and professional sportswoman, Greta Gaines. A collection of seven original songs in which Gaines combines southern acoustic melodies with electronic sounds and the beats of modern urban music, cultivating what she calls "hick-hop." Gaines produced the EP along with the help of the Pengwinz, which comprises Kareem Devlin and Shelby Shook (her younger brother). Greta Gaines emerged in 1992 when she became the first Women's Extreme Snowboard Champion. She also began her singing career in Jackson Hole, Wyoming playing to drunken cowboys and lonely dog mushers, before relocating to Nashville. gretagaines.com/centaurmusic.com.



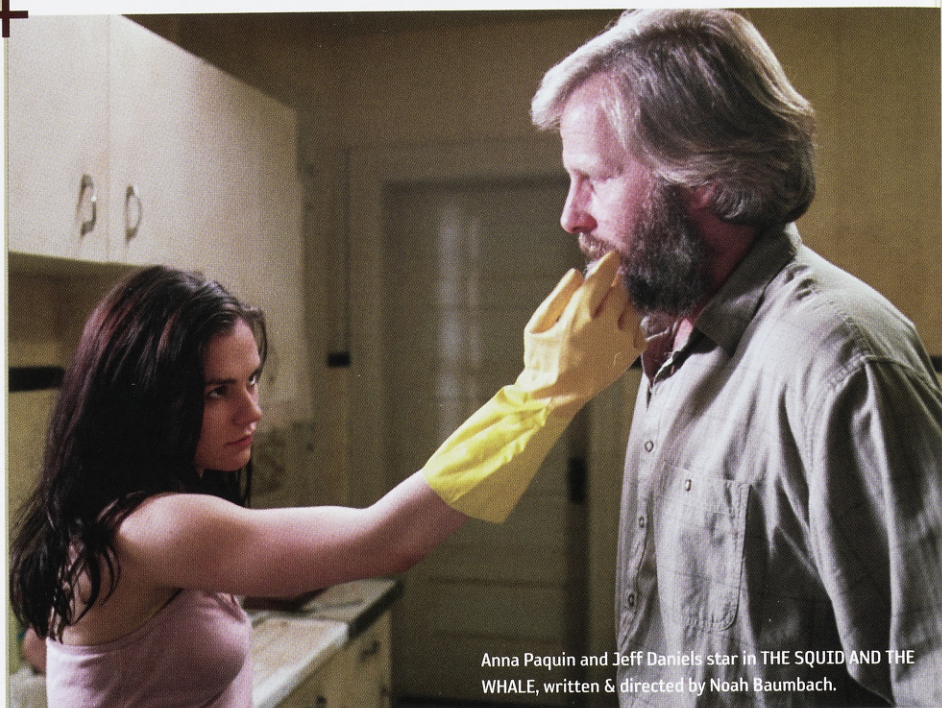
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11. KRISTINE W - I'LL BE YOUR LIGHT - WAYNE G / VARIOUS MIXES
12. DEBBY HOLIDAY - BRING IT ON - JOE BERMUDEZ MIX
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14. SIMPLY RED - PERFECT LOVE - DIRTY SANCHEZ MIX
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18. BLACK EYED PEAS - MY HUMPS - PAULO'S LA-NY MIX
19. CAST OF RENT - SEASONS OF LOVE - GOMI MIX
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"It had a twelve-year-old chronic masturbator that wipes his semen on everything—and of course it only played at the 'art house' theater... no wonder you liked it."



Anna Paquin and Jeff Daniels star in *THE SQUID AND THE WHALE*, written & directed by Noah Baumbach.

SWANNER AND JUDD

	SWANNER
ANNAPOLIS	★
CAPOTE	★★
HOODWINKED	★★
THE SQUID & THE WHALE	★
THE LAST HOLIDAY	★★★
	JUDD
CAPOTE	★★★
CASANOVA	★
CURIOUS GEORGE	★
THE LAST HOLIDAY	★★
MATCH POINT	★★★
THE SQUID & THE WHALE	★★★

JUDD: Well, here we are. We made it through the January Pile O' Crap relatively unscathed. Actually, most of the movies were pretty good. Of course there were some disasters, but overall I'm happy.

SWANNER: Are you kidding? It's been horrible!

JUDD: Well, OK. Two of the movies—Capote and *The Squid and The Whale*—I saw came in December so I guess they don't count as January movies. I liked Capote; it was one of the most unbiased films I've ever seen. It left me not knowing whether to like Truman Capote for what he did, or hate him for being the person he was. Either way, Philip Seymour Hoffman was brilliant.

SWANNER: Hoffman is always brilliant—but the movie wasn't. But *Squid and the Whale*, while interesting, was totally disturbing and ultimately a waste of my time. The performances were good but if I never see the movie again... I'll be a much happier person.

JUDD: It was disturbing so that made it a waste of your time? Maybe you should stick to

watching Lifetime, Grandma! I liked *The Squid and The Whale* and it will be in my collection. Wes Anderson was only a producer, but had his hands all over the whole production. I could have totally seen Bill Murray playing Jeff Daniels character and Angelica Huston as Laura Linney's character.

SWANNER: It had a twelve-year-old chronic masturbator that wipes his semen on everything—and of course it only played at the "art house" theater...no wonder you liked it. Another pile of crap I saw was *Annapolis*. Here we have James Franco playing the Richard Gere character in a blatant rip off of an Officer and a Gentleman. They even have Tyrese Gibson playing the Louis Gossett Jr. role—which bored me to tears. These movies are always the same: White against Black, a big fight, someone kills himself and the core characters have to be four completely different personalities. Oh, and of course the lead male gets the lead female in the end. BLAH! The only reason to see this movie is that the actors spend a lot of time without shirts.

JUDD: I didn't see *Annapolis*. The stench coming from the previews was enough to keep me away. I saw the new Woody Allen film *Match Point* about a tennis coach that marries into a rich family and has an affair with his brother-in-law's soon-to-be-ex-girlfriend played by the very sexy Scarlett Johansson. The first hour of the movie moves slowly, but the second half is great. You hate the main character, but you hope he succeeds all the same.

SWANNER: I dragged my ass out

of bed on an early Saturday morning for *Hoodwinked*, which tells the story of Little Red Riding Hood and the behind the scenes truth of the whole wolf/grandmother situation. It was entertaining but short. Less than 70 minutes is not worth \$9.50—but I would recommend it for DVD. Didn't you see *Casanova*?

JUDD: Yup—or as I like to call it—"Heath Ledger's Catwoman". Heath Ledger, who gave the world a possibly Oscar-winning performance in *Brokeback Mountain*, and what does he follow it up with? *Casanova*: a trite rom-com about the woman that steals *Casanova's* heart. He looked almost as bored as I was. What is with these actors who build up their credibility in one film and destroy it in the next?

SWANNER: Sorry I missed that one. The last film I saw was *The Last Holiday* with Queen Latifah as a woman who finds out that she has three weeks to live and decides to make her last weeks full. This is a rom-com so the ending was no surprise—but the great performance from Latifah was.

JUDD: I wasn't looking forward to *The Last Holiday*, but I was pleasantly surprised. It wasn't great, but it was cute. Of course, LL Cool J helped a lot. Who could resist that smile and those dimples? The final movie I saw for January was *Curious George*—it was not so cute. It should have gone straight to DVD. The animation was shoddy, the story was poor. Basically it was a throw-away cartoon aimed at three to five year olds, and not the adults that grew up on *Curious George*.

I do. I don't.

by Tom Swanner

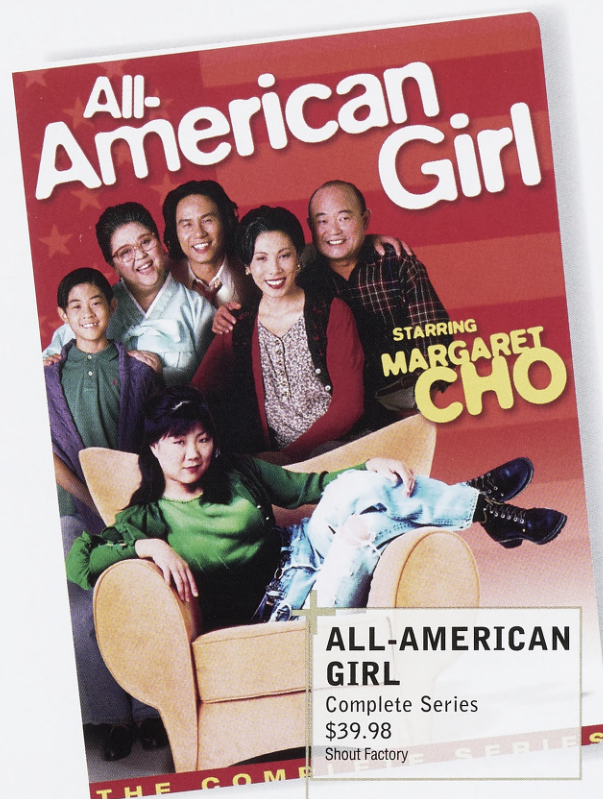
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Politics
& the Meaning of True Love

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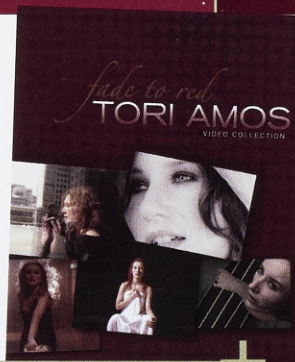




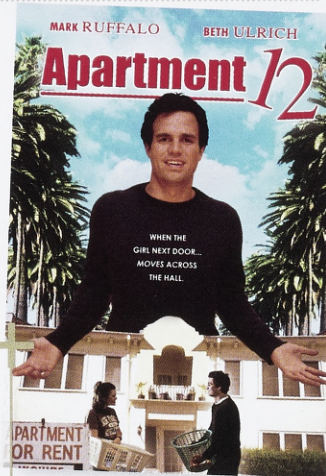
"All-American Girl," the groundbreaking sitcom inspired by the life and comedy of Margaret Cho, debuts on DVD January 31st via Shout! Factory. The four-disc set includes all 19 half-hour episodes, which originally aired on ABC during the '94 - '95 television season. Stand-up comedian Margaret Cho plays Margaret Kim in this insightful comedy about a young, second-generation Korean American, torn between two very different cultures. Featuring new audio commentaries by Cho and the actress who played "Grandma," Amy Hill (Cheaper by the Dozen, The Cat in the Hat), this entertaining sitcom brings an Asian American family to TV for the first time, allowing viewers a comic glimpse of the culture clash between the Americanized Cho and her traditional family.

THE DVD shelf

Fade To Red is a look at the compelling videos that illustrate Tori Amos' musical vision. The set features such hits as "Silent All These Years," and "A Sorta Fairytale." Fade To Red also includes videos from her most recent CD release, The Beekeeper. Amos is one of the few artists who use the video format to truly capture the essence of her music through striking images and cinematography which makes this collection a must have for any devotee or casual fan. Also included is a comprehensive audio commentary by Tori herself on each video. Amos comments, "Over the years, whether it be through stills or moving picture, I have always enjoyed dancing with the devil from that other medium."



Alex (Mark Ruffalo), a self-absorbed young painter, is having a bad day. He doesn't get the art show he's been expecting, his girlfriend kicks him out, and he finds himself living in a low rent Hollywood apartment with an ironclad lease. His downward spiral takes a turn when Lori (Beth Ulrich) moves in across the hall. It soon becomes apparent that as convenient as it is to date across the hall, it's even more inconvenient to try and break up! www.mtvvideo.com.



FINAL APPROACH
92 Minutes
\$14.98
MTI Home Video

January marks the release the highflying family action adventure film Final Approach, where a 10-year-old quickly becomes 30,000 feet in over his head! Final Approach stars Eric Roberts (The Specialist, Runaway Train), Jordan Garrett (Saving Shiloh, Easy), Larry is a ten-year-old daydreamer and expert on his computer flight simulator program. On a flight for a school field trip, he gets the uneasy feeling that his plane is about to be hijacked! Together with the help of his loyal friends they must foil the dastardly plot before it is too late. But, the hijacking is just the tip of the iceberg. The pilot has collapsed and someone must land the plane!

HEALTH



FLU IS FOR THE BIRDS

By Daniel Brannigan, DC, Julie Fray, P.A.

capable of spreading through human-to-human contact. It possibly poses a threat down the road if the virus mutates, however that has not happened yet and given the aggressive tactics the world health agencies have taken, this flu may never be a threat. Again Epidemics and Pandemics in part are a part of a natural organic cycle and they may be inevitable regardless of the actions health officials take. But this cycle of evolution takes time and it may be years before this flu virus becomes transmutable from person to person. If and when it does the media will let us know; you can count on it.

Tamiflu is a prescription drug and like all prescription drugs they can be of great benefit on occasion, yet more often than not many of these medications cause more problems for us than they do curing disease. The side effects of this drug have included skin disorders, psychiatric problems and in a few instances in children under 12 years of age death. In the case of the avian flu this medication will only make a differ-

ence if any if taken within the first 48 hours of the first signs of an infection, and at best, will do nothing more than shorten length of the infection by about two to three days. It will not act as a magic bullet, it will not save the lives of millions in the event of a massive pandemic, it may weakens already perfect immune system with its antiviral properties and it potentially may cause a greater threat if the virus mutates and develops further immunities.

WHAT IS THE FLU?

The flu is a viral infection of the upper respiratory tract in which its symptoms come on suddenly. These symptoms include but are certainly not limited to fever, chills, nausea, vomiting as well as general body aches. The duration of the flu is usually several days to a week and perhaps longer. The common cold differs from the flu in that they usually only last a couple of days, the symptoms are often localized to the chest head and neck and are more progressive in their onset. The influenza

viruses mutate constantly which makes it difficult for us to build up immunity to them. These infections are also highly contagious meaning that the virus can spread from person to person via droplets put out by infected coughs, sneezes and contact with other body fluids.

The flu is an infection that is an annoyance and one that our body's natural immune system can fight off with relative ease. There are, however, those individuals that need to take certain precautions when getting sick. Individuals 65 years of age and older tend to have weaker immune systems and need to be careful as those who have pulmonary or heart conditions and autoimmune diseases should seek medical attention to avoid further complications like pneumonia flu like complications.

THE VACCINE: DO WE OR DON'T WE?

The flu vaccine was developed mainly for those mentioned earlier with immune compromise disorders and the

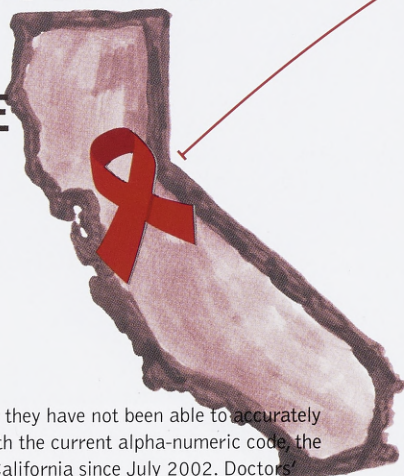
Tamiflu is a prescription drug and like all prescription drugs they can be of great benefit on occasion, yet more often than not many of these medications cause more problems for us than they do curing disease

As you may have noticed we are in the middle of another flu season and the marketing of the flu vaccine is in full force. Given that last years seasonal profits fell apart due to the lack of supply, I cannot help but to wonder if they are trying to make up for it this year by scaring us with terms like the bird flu and pandemic to entice more of us to vaccinate and or to stock up on prescription medication like Tamiflu. First let's get a few facts out of the way. The Avian flu is an influenza virus that is not currently

elderly. However these days it seems that medical professional are pushing for everyone to get their flu shot, even children. Drug companies and health agencies have been pushing flu vaccines regularly. Ever since President Ford back in the early '70s was inoculated on national T.V. when the Swine flu epidemic posed a threat to our nation the annual flu shot has been thought necessary. Interestingly if ones goes back in time and looks at the surveys of physicians during the time of the epidemic it showed without exception that doctors would not administer the vaccine to their own children. What many of us don't know is that lawsuits exceeding 1 billion dollars were filed with the U.S. Department of Justice due to the amounts of injury and death cause by the Swine flu vaccine.

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

CALIFORNIA MAY BEGIN TRACKING HIV BY NAME



California authorities say they have not been able to accurately monitor HIV's spread with the current alpha-numeric code, the tracking system used in California since July 2002. Doctors' offices and labs frequently send incomplete and inaccurate information to local health departments, which are then unable to follow up cases or provide correct data to the state.

A bill proposed for consideration by the state Senate (SB 699), to allow state health officials to track HIV cases by name, is meeting little of the opposition that surrounded a similar bill last year. AIDS cases are already tracked by name.

Gay and lesbian legislators and AIDS advocacy groups now say that, without the change to name-based HIV reporting, California could soon lose federal funding that is tied to such data. Proponents of name-based reporting say the state should track HIV as it does all other reportable diseases, in a confidential database of names. Opponents have long worried about breaches of confidentiality in a system using names. SB 699 gives the state up to a year to draft rules for name-based reporting. It includes steep penalties for breaches of confidentiality and provisions for anonymous testing at specified sites. But those who go to a doctor or hospital for testing would have their names entered into the tracking system.

Only six states and the District of Columbia continue to track HIV cases by code. Hawaii is planning to switch to name-based HIV reporting soon. State health officials estimate there are 2,300 to 3,200 people living with HIV and AIDS in Hawaii. That state's dispersed epidemic is a challenge for health officials, say officials. In other states, HIV and AIDS cases are pretty much concentrated in urban areas where health and prevention services are more readily available. But Hawaii must target HIV efforts widely, including in rural areas, where health care access is typically poor due to poverty, lack of transportation, and other difficulties.

Oregon announced in January that it will also switch to a name-based HIV reporting system to preserve federal AIDS funds, which will soon be allocated based on data counted by the Centers for Disease Control. But the CDC will not accept HIV data unless reports are name-based, a method less likely than code-based systems to count cases more than once. Without the switch, Oregon says it could lose 30-40 percent of the \$10 million it receives in Ryan White CARE Act funding that helps pay for treatment for hundreds of low-income people throughout the state.

ONCE-DAILY PILL SHOWS PROMISE

A new clinical trial reports favorable results for a once-a-day pill for those on drug regimens that include Truvada (Viread and Emtriva) and Sustiva (Efavirenz). In the trial, 84 percent of the 517 volunteers taking Gilead's still-unnamed drug achieved a level of 400 copies of genetic material per unit of blood after 48 weeks, comparing favorably to 73 percent in the comparison group taking Combivir plus Sustiva. The company says the Truvada-Sustiva combination pill delivers a dose equivalent in the bloodstream to taking two pills separately. Gilead will seek FDA approval of the once-daily pill in mid-2006.

SIMPLIFIED PRESCRIPTION INFO ON THE WAY

Confusing information about drugs may be responsible for up to 300,000 preventable cases of death or injury each year, says the Food & Drug Administration. It's expected that simplifying the package inserts that come with every drug will greatly diminish this number.

Over the years, says the FDA, the prescribing instructions have become "very congested and complex," making it difficult for physicians to find the information they need, and for those taking the meds to find info about the drug.

The new rules being issued by the FDA will banish many of the legal warnings, move the diagrams about the drug's structure to the end of the package insert, and require a toll-free number for physicians to report side effects and a box of "highlights" that point out the most important risks and benefits

about each drug. Use of the old small-print information sheets will phase out over the next seven years for meds already on the market.

NON-PROFIT CCC CLOSES

Sacramento's Center for Complementary Care is closing its doors this month as a result of federal funding cuts. CCC has provided discounted sessions of massage, acupuncture and nutrition counseling to as many as 100 local people with HIV per month.

Much of CCC's funding was through the federal Ryan White CARE Act, said executive director Jan Trifiro, and the California Endowment also provided funding to the center. Sadly, preventative measures don't get the same funding recognition as treatment efforts.

"Preventative medicine is cost-effective, and it offers a higher quality of life for people in the HIV-positive community" who deal with the stress and drug side effects of HIV disease, said Jan. Many of the center's therapists



[HTTP://WWW.DHS.CA.GOV/PS/00A/](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/00a/)

CONDOM BATTLE IN MOROCCO AIDS FIGHT

A fund-raising telethon in Africa by the Moroccan Association for the Fight Against AIDS came under fire from Islamists who accused the group of spreading "the culture of the condom." Artists from Morocco participated in the event to raise AIDS awareness. Some HIV-positive people shared their stories on air.

Groups associated with the Islamist Party condemned the association for trying to implement foreign programs in Moroccan society "without regard to Morocco as an Islamic county." Fidelity to religion and marriage, they said, is the best way to fight AIDS. One AIDS expert there said the Islamist position is "an attempt to impose this comprehension on others." About 16,000 of Morocco's 32 million people have HIV/AIDS, estimates the Moroccan Association, but since there are no accurate official figures, the incidence could be much higher.

Friends Lost in FEBRUARY IN LOVING MEMORY

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DeWayne Dale

Linam

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Daryl Speicher

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Brian Parker

FEBRUARY 1989:

Lafayette Terrell

Ron Wallis

FEBRUARY 1990:

David Austin

Maury Miller

Ernie Conti

Don Gobel

FEBRUARY 1991:

Jimmy Pisciotta

FEBRUARY 1992:

Scott Carlson

Andres Lopez

Connie Lee

David Anderson

Paul Packard

Charlie Wells

Bruce C. Bitts

Ron Brewer

Larry Phelps

FEBRUARY 1993:

Stephen Warren

Ron Buckner

Russ Steiger

Jack Voyles

Jack Greiner

Michael Rawlins

John Trapp

Michael Schiveley

Steve Colip

FEBRUARY 1994:

Chuck Scaggs

Sonia Esteves-

Velazquez

Don Hester

Geddes

David Dobler

Ralph F.

Randy Shilts

FEBRUARY 1995:

Joel Ferreira

Reuel Johnson

David Pope

Randal Chris Bit-

terman

Michael Chapman

Dick Gallagher

Billie Rae Butulia

Brian Bell

David Arnold

David Trimble

FEBRUARY 1996:

Mark Britton

Terry Childers

William M.

Dennis B.

Chuck Smith

E. D. Granberg

FEBRUARY 1997:

Clifford Wasson

Victor Martin

Mark Allen

Britton

FEBRUARY 1998:

Ronnie Diones

("Rachelle")

FEBRUARY 1999:

Terry Hurst

J. B. Hefferlin

Ermine Duccini

FEBRUARY 2001:

Chris Anderson

Gary Lombardo

FEBRUARY 2002:

John Mack

FEBRUARY 2003:

Robin Garrison

FEBRUARY 2004:

Mike Ward

Aaron Santos

("Christianna

Ramos")

FEBRUARY 2005:

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Walker

YEAR UNKNOWN:

Michael Bowers

Joe Brixlie

Don Christopher

Kevin Cooper

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AS LONG AS YOU ARE REMEMBERED, YOU LIVE!

To add the name of friends, family, or loved ones to MGW's IN LOVING MEMORY column, call (916)737-0309.

NEWSWIRE

by Sonya Cox

have offered to continue seeing their clients after the center closes, said Jan. The grateful thanks of the community go to the staff of CCC for the difference they have made in so many lives over the years. Study of intermittent use halted

Treatment guidelines have long shown that HIV meds must be taken continuously to avoid mutation of the virus, or other problems with drug interactions, but smaller studies have suggested, and hoped for, the possibility of taking medication breaks and still controlling HIV while reducing side effects and saving money, especially in poor countries where AIDS is skyrocketing.

Unfortunately, one of the largest studies ever done with HIV therapies was recently stopped by the National Institutes of Health when it was determined that on-and-off dosing of AIDS drugs is far riskier than continuous use. The study, which had enrolled more than 5,000 people from 33 countries, verified that people on an intermittent HIV regimen were more

than twice as likely to get sicker or die as those who took the drugs daily. Not only did intermittent therapy not control HIV, NIH researchers found it actually increased side effects related to the heart, kidney, and liver.

Although the finding is a major disappointment, the president of the International Association of AIDS Physicians said episodic therapy may still eventually work with newer and more potent drugs. "It should signal to us to invest even

more in developing the next generation of anti-retroviral drugs that may make this a possibility," he said.

The NIH has notified physicians participating in the study to start contacting people about the results, and to place them back on continuous dosing. For such a large study to find an answer so quickly is significant, said the NIH. The main message is that "it does not appear prudent" to get off AIDS drug cocktails.



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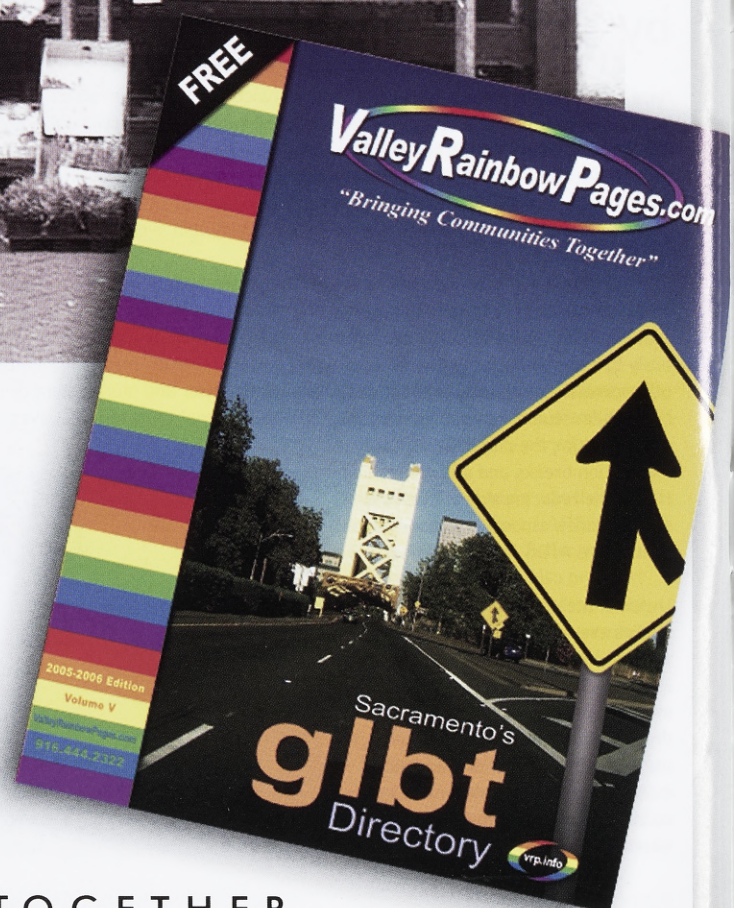
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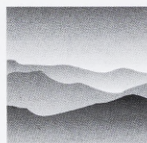
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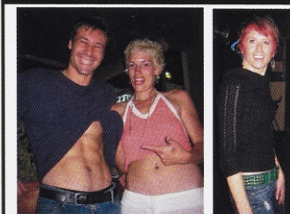
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